



Join Us

Become an involved member of the Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal.



President's Welcome

The Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal – a large title for an extraordinary organization!

When I became a member of the Council, it took me some time to master the full name of the organization (as well as the acronym). However, I quickly learned that CCJSCA provided the foundation for learning how to embrace the role of Chief Judge with all its varied responsibilities. I am confident that as a new Chief Judge, you will find your involvement with the Council to be extremely worthwhile.

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The Council was created in 1980 by visionary leaders of the state intermediate appellate courts. They recognized the need for a body of consultation and education to improve the administration of justice, especially as that occurs in the state intermediate courts. But,

fundamentally, CCJSCA is a Council of Chief Judges. The scope of our mission is focused to address the uncommon challenges of Chief Judges. Out of this mission has grown an organization that not only provides amazing education but fosters relationships between judges that in turn fosters greater sharing of information, ideas, and innovations to improve our court functions. While we are made up of current Chief Judges, because many appellate courts rotate the Chief Judge position, our membership includes former Chief Judges who continue to be a valuable resource.

You will quickly learn that our annual conference is not to be missed. Not only do we have outstanding education sessions and speakers, but the interaction among judges creates collegiality and lasting friendships. We also provide activities for our spouses and guests to enjoy while at the conference. In addition to the annual conference, we have many opportunities for virtual learning through our quarterly Chief Chats, committee meetings, and resources on our vibrant website.

I encourage you to attend the annual conference and become involved in the Council. I can promise you that you won't regret it! Your involvement will allow you to develop skills required by a Chief Judge and bring useful information back to your court.

Welcome! I look forward to meeting you soon!



JUDGE FRANKIE MOORE, Nebraska Court of Appeals
President, Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal

– JUDGE FRANKIE MOORE
Nebraska Court of Appeals
President, Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal



MEET JUSTICES:

When available, Justices from the United States Supreme Court and Chief Justices from our State Supreme Courts join us as speakers and at our receptions.



Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Clarence Thomas, Stephen Breyer, and Samuel Alito have attended conferences.

Chief Judge Mark Green (MA) and Judge Stephen Powell (OH) with Justice Stephen Breyer in Boston.

Annual Conferences

Without question, the main benefit of membership in CCJSCA is the opportunity to attend the annual conference!

These conferences are geared to the unique role of intermediate appellate court chief judges and provide opportunities to strengthen our knowledge and skills through excellent educational sessions and to converse and collaborate with both newer and more experienced colleagues. "Once a chief, always a chief!" as Judge Maggie Robb likes to say.

Past conferences have included discussions with United States Supreme Court Justices, legal writing instructors, law school professors, high-profile speakers, and nationally recognized appellate experts, and sessions on leadership and professional development. To be sure, the CCJSCA annual conference is not just another run-of-the-mill judicial CLE. Rather, the conference offers

a truly unique opportunity to learn from and forge friendships and professional connections with fellow chief judges from around the country.

Time spent at a CCJSCA conference offers unique social opportunities drawing on the best that the conference site has to offer—be that a day at the horse races in Kentucky, a tour and tasting at the Coors brewery in Colorado, a tour of Boston and its waterways on the city's famous duck boats, s'mores and a bonfire on a Florida beach, shopping on King Street in Charleston, or dinner at the famous Monterey Bay Aquarium. CCJSCA offers scholarships to enable participation from as many chiefs as possible.

Hope to see you in Washington, D.C.!



2025 California Conference Attendees



Judge Mark Pfeiffer and Leon Panetta, Former United States Secretary of Defense

www.ccjsca.org



Our Mission

www.ccjsca.org

To promote the improvement of the administration of justice, rules and methods of procedure, and the organization and operation of intermediate appellate courts by offering the Chief Judges of the intermediate appellate courts a body for consultation and education.

consultation & education

Benefits of Membership

Every chief judge is busy—busy with administrative matters, busy with their caseload, and busy volunteering for law-related organizations. And then there is life outside of work. So why take more of your limited time to join another organization? The answer is simple: the Council is not just another organization, it's an organization created specifically for helping people like you—judges who already know how to judge, but now have to manage an entire court. The Council does this in many different ways:

- A. Engaging new members through an informal **mentorship program** that connects new Chiefs with a current member, providing an introduction to the Council and a contact for related issues;
- B. Spectacular **annual conferences**, which provide not only excellent and varied substantive programs, but create an unsurpassed opportunity to meet chiefs from across the country with whom ideas and experiences can be shared (scholarships to reduce or eliminate the cost of attendance are available to member courts);
- C. **Web-based programming**, such as “Chief Chats” and “GEMS,” provide great opportunities throughout the year to discuss varying topics related to court administration and related matters, while the website contains valuable material compiled over the years, and hosts an active “Chiefs Forum” for the quick sharing of ideas and resources between member courts;
- D. An opportunity to **get involved in leadership** roles, giving you a better opportunity to share your ideas and to continue the work of the Council.
- E. By participating in any of the above, the opportunity to gain **lifelong friendships**, resourceful contacts, and great memories.



Join Us

Courts from the following states are members of CCJSCA.

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

What They Are Saying

Conference attendance provides an opportunity to see parts of the country you may not otherwise visit while allowing you to meet Chief Judges from around the country. Networking with these Chiefs will expose you to alternative ways to manage the administration of Justice in your State.

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I have attended the CCJSCA Annual Conference the past two years and it is truly wonderful. The seminars provide excellent judicial education that is specifically geared to chief judges. And the opportunity to interact with the chiefs of other courts of appeals from across the country, and learn about their experiences and how they manage their courts, has been priceless. All of this is in addition to the great friendships that I made each time.

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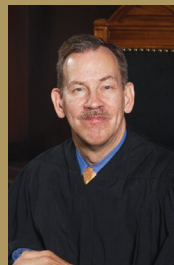


– Hon. Terry Adams
Texas First Court of Appeals

“

This was one of the best conferences I have attended! The seminars were informative and entertaining, and the networking and camaraderie among my colleagues from courts across the country created a great learning experience for a new member.

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– Hon. Randall M. Howe
Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One

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Being a member of the Council has been extremely rewarding. Having the ability to discuss issues with other judges who understand the demands and challenges of being the administrative head of court has been very helpful, and, sometimes, a lifeline. I very much like hearing about how other courts operate. And I enjoy sharing insights about how we've succeeded in things we've done with our court to promote collegiality and efficiencies in moving cases.

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–Hon. Gregory Wells
Appellate Court of Maryland

www.ccjsca.org

COUNCIL OF CHIEF JUDGES
OF THE STATE COURTS OF APPEAL

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SITES

The locations for the Council's annual conferences have spanned the country. Here are a few of the latest host cities we have enjoyed:

- 2013 – St. Louis, Missouri**
Oct 29-Nov 2
- 2014 – New Orleans, Louisiana**
Nov 18-22
- 2015 – New Jersey/New York City**
Oct 6-10
- 2016 – Cary (Raleigh), North Carolina**
Nov 12-16
- 2017 – Lexington, Kentucky**
Oct 16-21
- 2018 – San Diego, California**
Nov 12-17
- 2019 – Denver, Colorado**
Oct 15-18
- 2021 – Boston, Massachusetts**
Oct 13-15
- 2022 – Amelia Island, Florida**
Nov 29-Dec 4
- 2023 – Charleston, South Carolina**
Oct 24-28
- 2024 – Monterey, California**
Nov. 12-16
- 2025 – Washington, District of Columbia**
Oct. 12-16
- 2026 – Scottsdale, Arizona**
Nov. 10-14

